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PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD OPEN FOR STAR RANGE
ABANDONED MINE RECLAMATION PROJECT

Beaver -- The Utah Division of Oil, Gas and Mining’s (OGM) Abandoned Mine Reclamation Program is requesting public input on the proposed Topache Peak Project to safeguard 245 abandoned mine openings in the Star mining district in Beaver County. Public comment is open now until Sunday, July 26.

The project would secure abandoned mine openings using steel grates, concrete block walls, polyurethane foam plugs and earthen backfills. Closures are designed to protect features of historic significance and animal habitat, while protecting the public from injuries or death. Abandoned mines are hazardous because they are no longer maintained, lack ventilation and may collapse.

Public input was collected at an open house held in Milford, Utah on April 28, 2016. Issues raised included property owner rights, preservation of historic resources and potential lead contamination resulting from disturbance of mine dump material. These concerns will be discussed in the draft Environmental Assessment.

This scoping period provides an opportunity for public participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process. The environmental review is being conducted in coordination with the BLM Cedar City Field Office.

All comments will be accepted; however the most useful comments are specific and contain new technical or scientific information relevant to the proposal. Comments which contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response but may be considered in the decision-making process.

Email comments to Jan Morse janmorse@utah.gov or mail to P.O Box 145801 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801. Please reference the Topache Peak Project. Additional information and photos are available at ogm.utah.gov.

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